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ABSTRACT

The educational background of parents of postsecondary students at two time periods (1968-69 and 1974-75) is reported in relation to the educational attainment of the Canadian population. After an intrcduction that provides the rationale for the study, enrollment patterns, participation rates and student support programs in postsecondary education are examined. The educational attainment of parents of postsecondary students in 1974-75 is discussed in chapter 2. Findings show that 75 percent of the fathers of full-time community college students in terminal programs had only elementary or secondary education, while only 50 percent of those students in graduate programs had fathers in this category. Similar patterns were observed for mothers. A comparison of the educational attainment of parents between 1968-69 and 1974-75 is presented in the third chapter. Among findings of this comparison are that undergraduate students' parents were statistically similar in both time periods, with proportionately fewer parents having advanced degrees among community college students, and a somewhat higher proportion holding at least a university degree among graduate students. The realtionship of educational attainment of postsecondary students' parents compared to the Canadian population is examined in chapter 4. A tentative conclusion is that although greater access to higher education has not occurred in universities, it seems to have taken place in the community college sector. Further tables on educational attainment of fathers and an outline of procedures and methods of data collection are appended. (PHR)

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THE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF PARENTS OF POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS IN CANADA

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HE 011 586

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March 1, 1978

THE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF PARENTS OF POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS IN CANADA

(A Comparison Between 1968-69 and 1974-75
and Related to the Educational Level of the Population)

Second Draft

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March 1, 1978

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	2
List of Tables	4
Introduction	6
Chapter	
I Enrolment Patterns, Participation Rates, and Student Support Programs in Post-secondary Education.	13
II Educational Attainment of Parents of Post-secondary Students in 1974-75.	22
III Comparison of Parental Educational Attainment Between 1968-69 and 1974-75.	31
IV Educational Attainment of Post-secondary Students' Parents in Relation to the Canadian Population.	45
V Concluding Observations.	55
Appendix A - Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduate Students by Province and Field of Study.	61
Appendix B - Methods of Procedures of Data Collection	67

PREFACE

This is the second draft of a descriptive report that deals with the educational background of parents of post-secondary students at two time periods (1968-69 and 1974-75), and in relation to the educational attainment of the Canadian population.

This study was prepared for an AUCC meeting in the Fall of 1977 as a contribution to the discussion on the accessibility of post-secondary education.

The statistics and accompanying commentary highlight only one variable, "educational attainment", and focus on the national level; Appendix A provides some provincial variations and by field of study.

It was not possible to review the extensive literature available, particularly from the United States. Attempts have been made to refer to Canadian reports, but in recent years, few studies have been carried out in Canada, despite the social and economic importance of the subject (post-secondary education involves about a million students, and accounts for annual expenditures of almost $5 billion).

Equality of educational opportunity was one of the most important social goals of the 1960's, and hence, empirical examination of the shifts that

have taken place reveals the extent to which this goal has been achieved.

Since this is the second draft, reactions from the university community are sought. A revised and expanded version will be available later on in 1978.

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Full- and Part-time Post-secondary Enrolment by Type of Study, 1967-68 to 1976-77	14
2	Gross Enrolment Rate of Full-time Post-secondary Students, by Type of Study and Sex, 1967-68 to 1975-76	16
3	Expenditures on Post-secondary Education by Type of Institution, 1967-68 to 1977-78	17
4	Canada Student Loans Plan, 1964-65 to 1975-76	19
5	Participation in the Canada Student Loans Plan by University and Non-university Students, 1967-68 to 1975-76	21
6	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75	24
7	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Part-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75	25
8	Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75	28
9	Educational Attainment of Mothers of Part-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75	29
10	Educational Attainment of Parents of Full- and Part-time Terminal and Undergraduate Students, 1974-75	30
11	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Male and Female Full-time Undergraduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75	33
12	Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Undergraduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75	34
13	Educational Attainment of Parents of Full-time Undergraduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75	35
14	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Community College Students in Terminal Programs, 1968-69 and 1974-75	38

LIST OF TABLES (cont'd)

Table		Page
15	Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Community College Students in Terminal Programs, 1968-69 and 1974-75	39
16	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Graduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75	43
17	Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Graduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75	44
18	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Community College and Undergraduate Students, Compared with the 45 to 64 Male Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75	47
19	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduates Compared with the 45 to 64 Male Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75	49
20	Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Undergraduates Compared with the Educational Level of the 45 to 64 Female Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75	50
21	Educational Attainment of Parents of Full-time Undergraduates Compared with the Educational Level of the 45 to 64 Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75	53
22	Comparison of Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Age Group: 1961 and 1971 Census	54
23	Unemployment, 14 to 24 and 25 and Over Age Groups, 1967 to 1978	59
24	Unemployment Rate by Age Group and Level of Education, April, 1975 to 1977	60
A-1	Comparison of Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduates by Province of Residence Between 1968-69 and 1974-75 and with the 1971 Census	63
A-2	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduate Students by Field of Study, 1968-69 and 1974-75	65
A-3	Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full- and Part-time Ph.D. Students, 1974-75	66

Introduction

The accessibility of post-secondary education may depend as much on students' socio-economic background, as on native intelligence, behavioural variables (motivation and attitude), ethnicity, religion, and locale (rural vs. urban). Robert Rabinovitch observed in 1966 that Canadian university students are "by and large not representative of the Canadian class structure, but rather bear the characteristics of the middle and upper classes ... "(1) But that was more than a decade ago. The aim of this report is to determine if it is still true today.

John Porter's 1965 study, The Vertical Mosaic, was the first large-scale analysis of modern Canadian class structure.(2) Porter used three indicators to measure social class: income, occupation and level of education. In determining who gains access to higher education, it would, of course, be desirable to use these three variables. However, as Edward Harvey recently noted in "Accessibility to post-secondary education -- Some gains, some losses": "A number of research studies have shown that education, occupation, and income are highly correlated with one another".(3) So, there is some justification for concentrating on the educational attainment of post-secondary students' parents, and relating it to that of the Canadian population, to assess the students' socio-

(1) Robert Rabinovitch, An Analysis of the Canadian Post-secondary Student Population. Part I. Ottawa: C.U.S., February 1966, p. 41

(2) John Porter, The Vertical Mosaic, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1965.

(3) Edward Harvey, "Accessibility to post-secondary education -- Some Gains, Some Losses", University Affairs, October 1977, p. 10, and Robert M. Pike, Who Doesn't Get to University ... And Why. (A study on Accessibility to Higher Education in Canada), AUCC, Ottawa, 1970 p. 70. "At present we are in the country of the blind - rushing ahead with university expansions, spending more money on student financial aid, developing new kinds of post-secondary institutions, yet all this without having any clear idea of the social consequences of our actions".

economic background. Furthermore, a 1977 report by the International Council for Educational Development observed, "For many segments of our society higher education is still the only means of gaining upward economic and social mobility".(4)

In recent years a substantial amount of new information on educational variables has become available, although it has not been extensively exploited. Results of the 1971 Census provide new benchmarks. Special supplements to the Labour Force Survey collected data on educational attainment at intervals throughout the sixties and early seventies, and since 1975, questions on education have been a regular part of the monthly survey. Statistics Canada also conducted comprehensive Post-secondary Student Surveys in 1968-69 and 1974-75, which identify the socio-economic background of post-secondary students according to parents' educational attainment. Moreover, since its 1964 inception, the Canada Students Loans Plan of the federal government has amassed a substantial amount of socio-economic data. Provincial financial aid programs also have extensive data banks.

This preliminary report focuses on the educational attainment of parents of post-secondary students, as an indicator of social class, for the two years 1968-69 and 1974-75. Analysis centres on the undergraduate level, and distinguishes between full- and part-time students, since

(4) Lois Rice, "Access and Equity" (paper in Access, Systems, Youth and Employment) published by the International Council for Educational Development, 1977, p. 26.

their socio-economic backgrounds appear to be different. Information is also grouped by sex because the undergraduate enrolment rate for 18 - 21-year-old females has grown in contrast to a somewhat stable rate for men. The student population is further broken down into four other groups by type of study:

- transfer students, mostly junior college students in Alberta and British Columbia, and CEGEP students in Québec.
- terminal program students, the majority of whom are enrolled in community colleges for diplomas or certificates. Information from the 1968-69 Post-secondary Students Survey has already shown that many terminal program students come from less affluent groups, compared with university undergraduates.
- graduate students
- students in professional programs, such as law, medicine and dentistry.

Another feature of this report is an examination of the educational attainment of mothers, and the impact this may have on children's education, particularly that of female children. An Economic Council study has shown, for example, that the father's influence on female educational accomplishments appears to be substantially less than that of the mother.(5) Changes in the degree of under-representation of

(5) J.B. Lacombe, Some Economic Aspects of Education in Canada, Discussion Paper No. 4, Economic Council of Canada, November 1973.

post-secondary students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, as measured by fathers' education, have been traced by relating data from the post-secondary student surveys to the educational attainment of the 45 - 64 male and female population reported in the Labour Force Surveys and the 1971 Census.(6)

Substantial variations exist among the provinces and by field of study. For example, fathers' educational attainment was lower in the Atlantic Provinces and highest in British Columbia. Also, the attainment of parents of students studying education tends to be lower than that of parents whose children are enrolled in other professional fields, such as medicine and dentistry.(7) Landed immigrants and foreign students were excluded because the concern of this report is Canadian students' socio-economic background. In absolute numbers, the disadvantaged have increased their participation in higher education. This is particularly true at the tuition-free CEGEP's in Québec, and at the community colleges in most of the other provinces, where tuition is lower than in universities. The proximity of these community colleges

(6) None of the five basic data sources used the same questions. However, an attempt was made to standardize the information and make these sources comparable and compatible. Especially difficult was the post-secondary non-university sector, where structural changes resulted from introduction of community college type of education and the transfer of teacher colleges to the university sector. The category "other education and training" raises definitional problems, which are identified in the footnotes to the various tables, and in the Appendix.

(7) A forthcoming study by Ted Harvey, sponsored by the Canada Council, will also explore variations by province and discipline over time.

to the students' homes facilitates commuting, thereby reducing the cost of education.

Although difficult to measure, declining employment opportunities for university graduates and the substantial decrease in the private rate of return on a university education seem to be reinforcing the traditional preference for vocational training among the disadvantaged.

Despite some fragmentary data, the relative extent to which disadvantaged social classes have improved their participation in the university sector is unknown. It must also be borne in mind that in the wake of the student revolt and stop-out phenomenon of the late 1960's and early 1970's, many children of the upper and middle classes, at least temporarily, did not go directly from high school to university. A further complication is how the relaxation of university admission standards affected the opportunities of various classes to attend. It has been suggested that less gifted and less motivated students from the upper and middle classes may have entered the universities, thereby reinforcing social inequalities in access. Another dimension is the changing role of women. Greater female labour force participation (1960-27.9%; 1976-45.0%) and the altered values and perception of women in regard to education likely have had considerable impact. These facets of accessibility

to post-secondary education and their inter-relationships could not be adequately isolated.(8)

In summary, this report examines a rather narrow range of quantifiable parameters by giving an overview of the expenditure and enrolment patterns between 1968-69 and 1974-75, and the growth in enrolment rates by sex and type of study.

As already mentioned, this report compares the educational attainment of parents of full- and part-time post-secondary students, by level and type of study between 1968-69 and 1974-75, with the attainment of the male and female 45 - 64 population.

The concluding chapter raises a number of additional issues like the growing youth unemployment and the question of their marketable skills. Because of the limited scope of this report complex questions such as the extent to which educational attainment facilitates social and occupational mobility can be mentioned only briefly. And no attempt has been made to provide definite answers to policy recommendations.

The results must be regarded as tentative, and it is hoped that others

(8) It is hoped that more sociologists, psychologists and economists will address these questions. Despite the substantial amount of new information which has become available, recent research has not been directed to these issues. But in the context of allocation of resources, they are of immense public policy interest.

will use the data on income and occupation gathered by the Post-secondary Student Surveys and the Labour Force Surveys to verify what is presented here.(9)

(9) It would be particularly helpful to use an Occupational Class Scale like that developed by Bernard Blishen. (Bernard R. Blishen, "The Construction and Use of An Occupational Class Scale", Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science, Vol. XXIV, No. 4, November 1958 and B.R. Blishen and H.A. McRoberts, "A Revised Socio-Economic Index for Occupations in Canada", Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, (13 (1), pp. 17 - 19), 1976).

Chapter I

Enrolment Patterns, Participation Rates and Student Support Programs in Post-secondary Education.

Before discussing the parental level of education of post-secondary students, it is helpful to outline the growth in enrolment and expenditures during the late sixties,and relate these figures to changes in the enrolment rate and available financial support.

Post-secondary enrolment increased spectacularly during the 60's. Full-time university enrolment grew from 253,000 in 1967-68 to 382,000 in 1976-77: the corresponding increase in part-time enrolment was from 98,000 to 189,000 (Table 1). Expressed as an index using 1967-68 as a base of a 100, the level for full-time students in 1976-77 was 151, and 193 for part-time. Post-secondary non-university enrolment rose at an even more rapid rate, from 99,000 to 231,000.

This growth might suggest a change in the parental educational background of post-secondary students. It could be assumed that under such conditions, less priviledged groups would have a better chance to participate.

Table 1

Full- and Part-time Post-secondary Enrolment
by Type of Study, 1967-68 to 1976-77

	Post-secondary Non-university		University			
	Full-time *		Full-time		Part-time**	
	No.	Index	No.	Index	No.	Index
1967-68	99,410	100.0	253,486	100.0	97,864	100.0
1968-69	129,528	130.3	265,843	104.9	101,666	103.9
1969-70	142,742	143.6	294,146	116.0	122,006	124.7
1970-71	166,079	167.1	309,469	122.1	156,576	160.0
1971-72	173,779	174.8	323,026	127.4	155,387	158.8
1972-73	190,954	192.1	322,404	127.2	152,981	156.3
1973-74	201,451	202.6	332,124	131.0	161,164	164.7
1974-75	210,835	212.1	347,356	137.0	170,249	174.0
1975-76	221,046	222.4	371,062	146.4	185,025	189.1
1976-77	231,060	232.4	382,060	150.7	188,890	193.0

* No part-time enrolment data are available for post-secondary non-university institutions.

** Refers only to university students in credit courses, excluding those in continuing education programs.

However, the increase in enrolment must be related to the growth of the relevant age groups. This yields a more meaningful measurement of the gross enrolment rate.(10)

When the full-time undergraduate student population is related to the 18 - 21 age group, the male enrolment rate increased only slightly from 21.5% in 1967-68 to a high of 22.9% in 1971-72, and since declined to 20.9% in 1975-76 (Table 2). In contrast, the female rate grew steadily from 11.3% to 15.8%. The pattern amongst post-secondary non-university students was different: the male and female rates were almost equal, and both increased gradually from 7% to about 12%. These changes in gross enrolment rates, particularly the increase in the female rate at the university undergraduate level and the relative decline of males, might reflect shifts in the educational background of parents.

The increase in expenditures for post-secondary education needs to be considered in conjunction with the growth in post-secondary enrolment and changes in the enrolment rate. Non-university expenditures, capital and operating, rose from $200 million in 1967-68 to an estimated $1.1 billion in 1976-77 (Table 3). Expenditures on the

(10) Total enrolment at any level, regardless of the students' ages, divided by the population of a specific age group; for example, total post-secondary enrolment related to the 18 - 24 age group.

Table 2

Gross Enrolment Rate of Full-time Post-secondary Students, by Type of Study and Sex, 1967-68 to 1975-76

	Post-secondary Non-university Related to 18 to 21 Age Group			Undergraduate University related to 18 to 21 Age Group			Post-secondary related to 18 to 24 Age Group
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total
				(percent)			
1967-68	6.8	7.4	7.1	21.5	11.3	16.4	15.4
1968-69	8.8	9.0	8.9	21.2	11.5	16.4	16.4
1969-70	9.7	9.1	9.4	22.0	12.6	17.3	17.3
1970-71	11.2	10.0	10.6	22.2	13.0	17.6	18.1
1971-72	12.0	10.3	11.2	22.9	14.0	18.5	18.5
1972-73	12.3	10.9	11.6	21.1	13.5	17.3	18.4
1973-74	12.6	11.4	12.0	21.0	14.1	17.6	18.9
1974-75	12.0	12.2	12.1	20.6	14.8	17.7	19.0
1975-76	11.9	12.8	12.3	20.9	15.8	18.4	19.5

* Includes full-time graduate students and students in professional programs such as law, medicine and dentistry.

Table 3

Expenditures on Post-secondary Education
by Type of Institution, 1967-68 to 1977-78

(current dollars)

	Post-secondary Non-university		University		Total	
	(thousands)	Index	(thousands)	Index	(thousands)	Index
1967-68	200,077	100.0	1,243,411	100.0	1,443,488	100.0
1968-69	251,203	125.6	1,359,972	109.4	1,611,175	111.6
1969-70	346,573	173.2	1,603,781	129.0	1,950,354	135.1
1970-71	429,995	214.9	1,790,812	144.0	2,220,807	153.8
1971-72	530,023	264.9	1,864,517	150.0	2,394,540	165.9
1972-73	572,993	286.4	1,867,801	150.2	2,440,794	169.1
1973-74	656,527	328.1	2,029,910	163.3	2,686,437	186.1
1974-75	792,408	396.1	2,372,171	190.8	3,164,579	219.2
1975-76	931,988	465.8	2,785,537	224.0	3,717,525	257.5
1976-77*	1,070,877	535.2	3,115,790	250.6	4,186,667	290.0
1977-78*	1,239,112	619.3	3,421,999	275.2	4,661,111	322.9

* Estimated

Note: Includes operating and capital expenditures.

university sector grew from $1.2 billion to $3.1 billion. Total post-secondary expenditures, in current dollars, almost tripled over the ten-year period, whereas full-time equivalent enrolment only doubled.

Expansion of the federal Canada Student Loans Plan was a major attempt to improve access to post-secondary education.(11) This program has been supplemented by provincial loan and grant schemes. In addition, the federal and provincial governments offer scholarships and fellowships as do the universities and other organizations.

The Canada Student Loans Plan authorized loans of about $900 million between 1967-68 and 1975-76 (Table 4). During this period, the average loan grew from $641 to $1,034. The number of post-secondary students participating in the Canada Student Loans Plan rose from 90,000 to 153,000 during the same period. Expressed differently, about 39% of all full-time students participated in the late sixties. In 1973-74, participation declined to 35%, but increased again to 39% in 1975-76. Recent preliminary figures indicate another drop in the participation rate in the Canada Student Loans Plan. This decrease in participation is difficult to explain without careful analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of post-secondary students and an examination of corresponding provincial programs.

(11) The province of Québec has not participated in the Plan, and has developed its own program.

Table 4

Canada Student Loans Plan, 1964-65 to 1975-76

Academic Year	Loans Authorized	Students Assisted	Post-secondary Students	Average Loan Per Student	% of Students Supported
	(in Million)			$	
1964-65	26.75	42,113	155,157	650	26.5
1965-66	35.95	51,272	177,433	701	28.9
1966-67	41.16	63,323	201,663	650	31.4
1967-68	57.89	90,345	233,906	641	38.6
1968-69	65.85	107,276	276,080	614	38.9
1969-70	79.98	121,611	314,730	703	38.6
1970-71	92.06	135,899	337,697	677	38.7
1971-72	91.84	128,585	350,070	714	36.7
1972-73	106.63	122,396	346,716	871	35.3
1973-74	115.77	125,987	359,735	919	35.0
1974-75	129.66	140,644	375,325	922	37.5
1975-76	158.65	153,419	398,293	1,034	38.5

Source: Department of Finance.

Participation in the Canada Student Loans Plan also varied by type of student. The proportion of university students was substantially higher than that of non-university students. For example, in 1968-69, the percentage of university students who were borrowing was 40.9%, but only 29.4% of non-university students (Table 5). This difference has narrowed somewhat in recent years.(12)

(12) The Study by E.G. West: "Student Loans: A Re-Appraisal: With Special Reference to Ontario and Canada, Changing Needs in Educational Finance", published in 1975 by the Ontario Economic Council provides valuable insights into the Canada Student Loans Plan. No other national study has analysed this important federal program and its impact on the accessibility of post-secondary education. This is particularly regrettable because the Act for the Canada Student Loans Plan is being reviewed, and substantial revisions are anticipated.

Table 5

Participation in the Canada Student Loans Plan by University and Non-university Students, 1967-68 to 1975-76

Academic Year	Full-time University Enrol.	Loan Recipients	% of Students with Loan	Full-time Non-univ. Enrol.	Loan Recipients	% of Students with Loan
1967-68	191,486	72,622	37.9	59,509	18,500	31.1
1968-69	201,442	82,351	40.9	74,731	22,000	29.4
1969-70	227,316	96,744	42.6	81,259	26,000	32.0
1970-71	247,356	102,134	41.3	91,703	29,222	31.9
1971-72	260,207	98,956	38.0	89,570	27,580	30.8
1972-73	256,160	95,505	37.3	90,727	30,226	33.3
1973-74	264,248	99,630	37.7	99,842	30,706	30.8
1974-75	277,216	109,259	39.4	98,653	32,696	33.1
1975-76	294,288	127,209	43.2	103,383	42,111	40.7

Sources: Canada Student Loans Plan, Annual Reports, (selected years) and Statistics Canada Enrolment Data (excluding Quebec).

Chapter II

Educational Attainment of Parents of Post-secondary Students in 1974-75

The primary purpose of this report is to document to what extent social class differences, as measured by parents' educational attainment, affect participation in post-secondary education.

The Post-secondary Students Survey of 1974-75 provides information on the educational attainment of fathers and mothers of full- and part-time students by type of study.(13)

For this discussion, parents' education has been grouped into three major categories: elementary, secondary and post-secondary. These have been further broken down into sub-categories such as "some university" and "university degree(s)". Particular difficulty was presented by post-secondary non-university education which did not exist in its present form at the time of the parents' education.(14)

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(13) Chapter III contains similar data on males and females for 1968-69 and compares it with the results of the 1974-75 survey. Chapter IV relates parental educational attainment of post-secondary students to that of the 45 - 64 population. This age group roughly corresponds to the age of post-secondary students' parents.

(14) Appendix A explains how educational levels from the five major data sources have been standardized. This reclassification, especially the treatment of post-secondary non-university education, reflects a certain value judgment by the author, which others might challenge. The information is expressed in percentages, and the number of respondents is given.

The educational attainment of fathers is considered an important factor in access to post-secondary education. Full- and part-time students are treated separately. According to the 1974-75 Post-secondary Student Survey, 75% of the fathers of full-time community college students in terminal programs had only elementary or secondary education, while the corresponding percentage of fathers of graduate students was 50% (Table 6). Inversely, 8% of the full-time terminal program students and 31% of the graduate students had fathers with at least one university degree.

The educational background of undergraduates' fathers corresponds more closely to that of fathers of graduate and professional program students in medicine, dentistry and law than to that of fathers of community college students in terminal programs.

However, the educational background of fathers of part-time undergraduate students is similar to that of full-time terminal students (Table 7). This fact apparently has not been considered in the student support programs which, in most cases, exclude part-time students.

The educational attainment of mothers is also associated with children's choice of education. This is most evident amongst students in professional programs, 13% of whose mothers held at least one university degree,

Table 6

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Post-Secondary Students, 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Full-time Students					
	Transfer	Terminal	Undergraduate	Professional	Graduate	Total
Elementary	23.9	31.9	19.8	21.9	15.9	23.4
Some High School	21.7	29.0	23.8	20.9	19.4	24.4
Completed High School	14.9	14.4	15.1	14.6	14.3	14.8
Sub-total Secondary	36.6	43.5	38.9	35.5	33.7	39.3
Total Elementary and Secondary	60.5	75.4	58.7	57.3	49.6	62.6
Post-secondary Non-university	15.3	13.0	12.5	11.2	11.2	13.0
Some University	7.0	3.9	7.1	7.2	8.3	6.3
University Degree(s)	17.2	7.6	21.7	24.2	30.9	18.0
Sub-total University	24.2	11.5	28.8	31.5	39.2	24.4
Total Post-secondary	39.5	24.6	41.3	42.7	50.4	37.3
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	59,437	93,195	189,275	23,401	14,132	379,440

Table 7

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Part-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Part-time Students				
	Transfer	Terminal	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
Elementary	30.7	37.2	36.3	32.7	35.4
Some High School	20.7	26.2	25.0	20.0	24.0
Completed High School	14.8	12.4	13.4	12.9	13.3
Sub-Total Secondary	35.5	38.5	38.5	32.9	37.3
Total Elementary and Secondary	66.3	75.8	74.8	65.7	72.7
Post-secondary Non-university	10.9	12.4	11.4	12.4	11.6
Some University	6.9	5.8	4.1	5.1	4.7
University Degree(s)	16.0	6.0	9.7	16.8	11.0
Sub-Total University	22.9	11.8	13.9	21.9	15.7
Total Post-secondary	33.7	24.2	25.3	34.2	27.3
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	6,192	9,613	52,258	14,135	82,198

compared with 2% of mothers of full-time students in terminal programs (Table 8).

The variation in mothers' education was marked between terminal program and university level students. More than 78% of the mothers of the former had elementary or secondary education, compared with about 65% of mothers of university students.

Educational attainment was also lower amongst mothers of part-time students: fewer than 4% of them held a university degree in contrast to 6% of the mothers of full-time students (Table 9).

Table 10 summarizes and compares the educational attainment of fathers with that of mothers of full- and part-time terminal program and undergraduate students. In general, the attainment of mothers was below that of fathers. Whereas 22% of the fathers of full-time undergraduate students held at least one university degree, the percentage was about 8% for mothers. And these proportions were halved for parents of part-time students: 9.7% of the fathers; 3.0% of the mothers.

The educational attainment of fathers and mothers of terminal program students was lower, but there was little difference between the parents

of full- and part-time students. Nearly 8% of the fathers of full-time students were degree-holders; 6.0% of the fathers of part-time students.

The following chapter traces shifts in the educational attainment of post-secondary students' parents between 1968-69 and 1974-75.

Table 8

Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75

Mothers' Educational Attainment	Full-time Students					
	Transfer	Terminal	Undergraduate	Professional	Graduate	Total
Elementary	23.7	29.8	17.4	15.6	19.4	21.5
Some High School	27.3	31.4	24.9	22.6	24.9	26.8
Completed High School	22.4	17.0	21.1	24.3	21.3	20.4
Sub-Total Secondary	49.8	48.5	46.0	46.9	46.1	47.3
Total Elementary and Secondary	73.4	78.3	63.4	62.5	65.5	68.7
Post-secondary Non-university	19.7	17.5	24.8	20.7	19.1	21.7
Some University	3.0	2.0	4.4	4.0	6.6	3.7
University Degree(s)	3.8	2.2	7.5	12.8	8.7	5.9
Sub-Total University	6.8	4.2	11.8	16.7	15.3	9.6
Total Post-secondary	26.6	21.7	36.6	37.5	34.5	31.3
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	60,322	94,968	191,272	14,326	23,723	384,611

Table 9

Educational Attainment of Mothers of Part-time Post-secondary Students, 1974-75

Mothers' Educational Attainment	Part-time Students				
	Transfer	Terminal	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
Elementary	33.3	31.9	33.1	29.2	32.3
Some High School	20.5	29.5	23.3	24.8	24.1
Completed High School	21.7	19.6	17.2	18.4	18.1
Sub-Total Secondary	42.2	49.2	40.5	43.2	42.1
Total Elementary and Secondary	75.5	81.1	73.6	72.4	74.4
Post-secondary Non-university	16.7	14.3	20.1	17.9	18.8
Some University	3.9	1.5	3.3	3.8	3.2
University Degree(s)	3.9	3.2	3.0	5.9	3.6
Sub-total University	7.8	4.7	6.3	9.8	6.8
Total Post-secondary	24.5	19.0	26.4	27.6	25.6
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	6,265	9,774	52,089	14,147	82,275

Table 10

Educational Attainment of Parents of Full- and Part-time Terminal and Undergraduate Students, 1974-75

Parents' Educational Attainment	Terminal				Undergraduate			
	Father		Mother		Father		Mother	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Elementary	31.9	37.2	29.8	31.9	19.8	36.3	17.4	33.1
Some High School	29.0	26.2	31.4	29.5	23.8	25.0	24.9	23.3
Completed High School	14.4	12.4	17.0	19.6	15.1	13.4	21.1	17.2
Sub-total Secondary	43.5	38.5	48.5	49.2	38.9	38.5	46.0	40.5
Total Elementary and Secondary	75.4	75.8	78.3	81.1	58.7	74.8	63.4	73.6
Post-secondary non-university	13.0	12.4	17.5	14.3	12.5	11.4	24.8	20.1
Some University	3.9	5.8	2.0	1.5	7.1	4.1	4.4	3.3
University Degree(s)	7.6	6.0	2.2	3.2	21.7	9.7	7.5	3.0
Sub-total University	11.5	11.8	4.2	4.7	28.8	13.9	11.8	6.3
Total Post-secondary	24.6	24.2	21.7	19.0	41.3	25.3	36.6	26.4
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	93,195	9,613	94,968	9,774	189,275	52,258	191,272	52,089

Chapter III

Comparison of Parents' Educational Attainment Between 1968-69 and 1974-75

Chapter II focussed on the educational attainment of parents of full- and part-time post-secondary students in 1974-75. Because Statistics Canada conducted a similar survey in 1968-69, a comparison can be made between the two time periods.

This chapter examines the educational attainment of parents of full-time students only, in community colleges and universities. Male and female students are treated separately.

The aim is to discover to what extent accessibility to post-secondary education increased during the seven years, a period of explosive growth in enrolment, expenditures, female participation, and non-university education. The general level of educational attainment of the Canadian population increased slightly, and this is reflected in an upward trend in the attainment of students' parents.

A. University undergraduates

Full-time undergraduate students constitute well over 50% of total post-secondary enrolment. If their fathers' education is used as the indicator of social class, changes between 1968-69 and 1974-75

are shown to be marginal, and the tendency has been to greater inequality of educational opportunity.

In 1968-69, 16% of male undergraduates' fathers had at least one university degree, and the percentage increased to 22% by 1974-75 (Table 11). A higher proportion, 19.5%, of the female students' fathers were degree-holders in 1968-69, and it rose to 23.3% in 1974-75. This narrowing of the gap between the percentage of fathers with degrees may signify the growth of female participation at the undergraduate level.

The same calculations were made for the education of mothers. The attainment of mothers of female students was higher than that of male students' mothers. For example in 1968-69, 17% of the female students' mothers had at least some university, compared with 13% for male students (Table 12). Even though the difference remained, the percentages increased substantially to 28% and 25% in 1974-75.

The proportion of undergraduates' fathers with high school completion or less remained around 57%, while the proportion of mothers, although higher, declined from 67.5% to 61.9% (Table 13). Inversely, the proportion of mothers with "some university" increased from 8% to 18%.

This table seems to suggest that the accessibility of university education may have remained if not increased in favour of students whose parents have also attended university.

Table 11

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Male and Female Full-time Undergraduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Post-secondary Student Survey, 1968-69			Post-secondary Student Survey, 1974-75		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	21.8	15.3	19.4	19.8	17.0	18.5
Some High School	23.5	24.6	23.9	24.3	24.5	24.4
Completed High School	14.3	13.1	13.9	15.3	14.9	15.1
Sub-total High School	37.8	37.8	37.8	39.5	39.3	39.4
Total Elementary and Secondary	59.6	53.0	57.2	59.3	56.3	57.9
Some University	7.0	8.0	7.4	8.9	9.4	9.1
University Degree(s)	16.4	19.5	17.5	21.7	23.3	22.5
Sub-total University	23.4	27.5	24.9	30.7	32.8	31.6
Other Education or Training	17.0	19.4	17.9	10.0	10.9	10.4
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	133,259	74,967	208,226	89,606	75,723	165,329

Table 12

Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Undergraduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Mothers' Educational Attainment	Post-secondary Student Survey, 1968-69			Post-secondary Student Survey 1974-75		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	20.3	14.6	18.3	17.9	14.6	16.4
Some High School	28.1	26.4	27.5	24.7	23.9	24.4
Completed High School	22.9	19.6	21.7	22.8	19.4	21.2
Sub-total High School	51.0	45.9	49.2	47.5	43.3	45.6
Sub-total Elementary and Secondary	71.4	60.6	67.5	65.4	57.9	61.9
Some University	6.8	9.1	7.6	17.4	19.3	18.3
University Degree(s)	6.3	7.7	6.8	7.2	9.0	8.0
Sub-total University	13.1	16.8	14.4	24.6	28.3	26.3
Other Education or Training	15.5	22.6	18.1	10.1	13.8	11.8
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	133,929	75,700	209,629	89,755	77,167	166,922

Table 13

Educational Attainment of Parents of Full-time Undergraduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Parents' Educational Attainment	Post-secondary Survey, 1968-69		Post-secondary Survey, 1974-75	
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
Elementary	19.4	18.3	18.5	16.4
Some High School	23.9	27.5	24.4	24.4
Completed High School	13.9	21.7	15.1	21.2
Sub-total High School	37.8	49.2	39.4	45.6
Total Elementary and Secondary	57.2	67.5	57.9	61.9
Some University	7.4	7.6	9.1	18.3
University Degree(s)	17.5	6.8	22.5	8.0
Sub-total University	24.9	14.4	31.6	26.3
Other Education or Training	17.9	18.1	10.4	11.8
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	208,226	209,629	165,329	166,922

However, these tabulations focus on "relative" shifts in the composition of students. In absolute numbers, all social classes shared in the expansion of access to post-secondary education. One of the main levelling factors has been the growth of student support programs directed to the disadvantaged.

The possibility that a greater proportion of the middle and upper classes are sending their children to universities implies that the less gifted of the privileged classes are gaining access to university education.

A number of international studies, particularly in the United States, have shown that only between 50% to 75% of each age cohort can truly benefit from higher education. This development may have been hastened by the lowering of university admission standards.

B. Community College Students

If it is true that universities are tending to become preserves of the middle and upper classes, then community college terminal programs may be the sole alternative available to the less privileged. And as already noted in Chapter II, community college students do seem to be drawn much more from disadvantaged groups. Therefore, while some rise in the

attainment level of parents of community college students may be expected in accord with the general rise in the population, the increase should be much less than among parents of university students. Tables 11 and 14 support this hypothesis in that the proportion of community college students' fathers who had university degrees was lower, and rose only three percentage points, from 8% to 11%, in contrast to a five percentage point rise from 18 to 23% among university undergraduates' fathers.

As was true of university students, there were some variations in the education of male and female community college students. The 1968-69 survey showed a higher educational level for fathers of female students, but seven years later, this difference had narrowed substantially.

And again, similar to university undergraduates, the educational attainment of female community college students' mothers was, on average, higher than that of the mothers of male students. This seems to suggest that educational opportunities for females are more dependent on the education of their parents. However, the divergence decreased noticeably by 1974-75 (Table 15).

Since the 1974-75 survey was conducted almost three years ago, it is possible that further changes have occurred in the educational attainment of parents of post-secondary students.

Table 14

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Community College Students in Terminal Programs, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Post-secondary Student Survey, 1968-69			Post-secondary Student Survey, 1974-75		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	37.3	27.5	32.0	28.9	29.3	29.1
Some High School	24.1	26.2	25.2	25.7	26.4	26.0
Completed High School	11.3	10.3	10.8	15.6	13.4	14.5
Sub-total High School	35.4	36.5	36.0	41.3	39.8	40.6
Total Elementary and Secondary	72.8	64.0	68.0	70.2	69.1	69.6
Some University	4.3	4.5	4.4	7.3	8.0	7.6
University Degree(s)	5.6	10.7	8.4	10.8	11.5	11.2
Total University	10.0	15.2	12.8	18.1	19.6	18.8
Other Education or Training	17.3	20.8	19.2	11.7	11.3	11.5
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	42,344	49,092	91,436	76,191	75,880	152,071

Table 15

Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Community College Students in Terminal Programs, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Mothers' Educational Attainment	Post-secondary Student Survey, 1968-69			Post-secondary Student Survey, 1974-75		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	31.4	25.4	28.2	28.2	26.8	27.5
Some High School	33.0	29.1	30.9	29.8	29.7	29.8
Completed High School	15.3	17.2	16.4	20.7	17.7	19.2
Sub-total High School	48.3	46.3	47.2	50.6	47.4	49.0
Total Elementary and Secondary	79.8	71.7	75.4	78.8	74.2	76.5
Some University	3.1	4.3	3.8	10.4	12.1	11.3
University Degree(s)	1.7	3.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.7
Total University	4.8	7.6	6.3	13.0	14.9	14.0
Other Education or Training	15.4	20.7	18.3	8.2	10.9	9.6
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	42,061	49,952	92,013	76,797	77,937	154,734

A number of factors influence the decision of the 18 - 21 age group to continue their education. The decline in the enrolment rate of male university students might mean a shift by all classes to non-university education, since this enrolment rate has continued to grow. Such a move could have been prompted by the 1973-75 recession, during which middle and upper class job opportunities declined.

Another consideration is the change in the value attached to university education, and also to income and occupation. There has been a world-wide movement to encourage limited economic growth and place greater value on quality of life elements such as family, friendship and conservation.

The combination of these factors alters the goal of education, placing greater emphasis on the intrinsic value rather than on investment for a career.

These issues are unresolvable and are raised only to indicate the complexity of the subject and the forces which shape the demand for university education.

C. University graduate students

Graduate students are a special group. Their job opportunities were particularly affected by the 1973 to 1975 recessionary conditions and the

consequent decline of openings in education and government. Thus, the enrolment rate in graduate education has fallen considerably in recent years and a shift from the arts and sciences to professional programs has taken place both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The educational background of parents of female graduate students is particularly revealing. In 1968-69 one-quarter of female graduate students' fathers held at least one university degree, compared with 17% of the males. By 1974-75, these percentages increased to 32% for females and 21% for males (Table 16).

At the same time, the proportions of female and male graduate students changed. Whereas in 1968-69 one out of three students was female, in 1974-75 the ratio was two to one.

The attainment of mothers of female graduate students was higher than that of the males' (Table 17).

The 1968-69 Post-secondary Student Survey does not provide information on the socio-economic characteristics of part-time students. But it is assumed that the background of part-time university students' parents was different from that of the parents of full-time university students. The recent study, "Some Characteristics of Post-secondary Students in Canada", by the Department of Secretary of State, has also shown that the age of students is a factor in the level of parents' educational attainment. This study also suggests that "children whose fathers had

little formal education tried to make up for the higher education opportunities they had missed earlier in their lives".[15]

Chapters II and III have provided an overview of the educational attainment of parents of full- and part-time post-secondary students. The following chapter will relate this information to the attainment of the revelant age group of the Canadian population.

(15) Bill Ahamad, David Zussman, Ann Bowen, "Some Characteristics of Post-secondary Students in Canada", Department of the Secretary of State, Education Support Branch, Ottawa, 1976 p. 38.

Table 16

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Graduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1968-69			Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1974-75		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	21.6	19.0	21.0	24.0	16.5	21.7
Some High School	23.0	15.8	21.2	22.6	20.2	21.8
Completed High School	18.6	12.6	17.2	14.8	13.4	14.4
Sub-total High School	41.6	28.4	38.5	37.4	33.6	36.2
Total Elementary and Secondary	63.2	47.4	59.4	61.4	50.1	57.9
Some University	6.5	8.1	6.9	7.9	9.1	8.3
University Degree(s)	16.5	25.3	18.6	20.5	31.6	23.9
Sub-total University	23.0	33.4	25.4	28.4	40.6	32.2
Other Education or Training	13.9	19.2	15.1	10.2	9.2	9.9
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	11,450	3,560	15,010	12,158	5,422	17,580

Table 17

Educational Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Graduate Students, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Mothers' Educational Attainment	Post-secondary Student, Survey, 1968-69			Post-secondary Student, Survey, 1974-75		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	21.7	16.4	20.4	21.9	13.7	19.3
Some High School	24.4	22.4	23.9	27.1	23.7	26.0
Completed High School	24.1	23.7	24.0	20.1	20.7	20.3
Sub-total High School	48.5	46.2	47.9	47.1	44.4	46.3
Total Elementary and Secondary	70.2	62.6	68.4	69.0	58.1	65.6
Some University	7.2	5.5	6.8	15.0	17.4	15.8
University Degree(s)	6.2	12.8	7.8	7.6	13.0	9.3
Sub-total University	13.5	18.4	14.6	22.6	30.4	25.0
Other Education or or Training	16.4	19.0	17.0	8.4	11.4	9.3
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	11,336	3,554	14,890	12,188	5,499	17,687

Chapter IV

Educational Attainment of Post-secondary Students' Parents in Relation to the Canadian Population

Although it is of considerable interest to know the educational attainment of parents of post-secondary students, this is meaningful for assessing equality of educational opportunity only in relation to the attainment level of the relevant age group of the Canadian population.

For this investigation, comparisons are made with the 45 - 64 age group, since it can be assumed that parents of 18 - 21-year-old post-secondary students are apt to be in this age range.

In January of 1969 and in April of 1975, Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey included questions about the educational attainment of the Canadian population, by age group and by sex; the 1971 Census is an intermediate measure, and the results of the 1961 Census provide a long term perspective. By chance, labour force data correspond closely to the dates of the two post-secondary surveys (Spring 1969 and 1975).

The educational background of fathers of undergraduate students differed markedly from that of the population in the 1969 Labour Force Survey. For example, 89% of the 45 - 64 male population had less than secondary

completion, whereas this applied to only 57% of the fathers of full-time undergraduate students (Table 18). Conversely, 7% of the 45 - 64 male Canadian population held at least one university degree compared with 18% of the fathers of undergraduates and 8% of the fathers of community college students.

In general, the educational attainment of the latter more closely reflected the pattern of the 45 - 64 male population. The situation of fathers of undergraduates was very different: 19% had only elementary education, while the corresponding figure for the population was 47%.

As previously noted there has been an upward shift in the educational attainment of the Canadian population. As an illustration, the proportion of the 45 - 64 cohort of the male population with a university degree increased from 7% to 8%. However, improvement was more marked at the lower levels of education. Yet, undergraduate students were three times as likely to have a father with a university degree than the educational attainment of the relevant population age group would suggest.

In 1975, the educational attainment of fathers of community college students more closely resembled the attainment of the 45 - 64 male population, although there had also been an upward trend in the education of this group compared with 1969.

Table 18

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Community College and Undergraduate Students, Compared with the 45 to 64 Male Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Level of Study	Father's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Students (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1968-69)		Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 male Population (Labour Force Survey, January, 1969)	Father's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Students (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1974-75)		Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Male Population (Labour Force Survey, April 1975)	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Male Population (Census 1971)
	Community College	Undergraduate		Community College	Undergraduate		
Elementary	32.0	19.4	46.7	29.1	18.5	37.4	44.2
Some Secondary	25.2	23.9	27.0	26.0	24.4	25.3	N/A
Completed Secondary	10.8	13.9	15.3	14.5	15.1	13.5	N/A
Sub-Total Secondary	36.0	37.8	42.4	40.6	39.4	38.8	29.6
Total Elementary and Secondary	68.0	57.2	89.0	69.6	57.9	76.2	73.7
Other Education or Training	19.2	17.9	N/A	11.5	10.4	10.3	9.4
Post-Secondary Non-University	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.5	1.7	2.4	6.7
Some University	4.4	7.4	4.2	5.2	7.5	3.6	4.4
University Degree(s)	8.4	17.5	6.8	11.2	22.5	7.6	5.7
Sub-Total University	12.8	24.9	11.0	16.4	30.0	11.1	10.1
Total Post-Secondary (Trade or Vocational)	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.9	31.7	13.5	16.8
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	91,436	208,226	1,870,000	152,071	165,329	2,113,003	1,978,850

Table 19 again shows a slight variation in the education of male and female students' fathers, and with reference to the 45 - 64 male population. In general, the fathers of female undergraduate students had attained a higher level of study.

The educational attainment of mothers of both male and female undergraduates have been related to the 45 - 64 female population. As noted earlier, the females' mothers, on average, had higher educational levels than the males'.

A case in point is the percentage of mothers with only elementary education in 1969: for female students this was 15%, for males it was 20%, compared with 43% of the female 45 - 64 age group (Table 20). At the other end of the spectrum, in 1969, 8% of the female undergraduate students' mothers had a university degree compared with 3% of the female population.

The 1974-75 Post-secondary Student Survey shows that this difference between male and female undergraduates persisted, although both had experienced an increase.

This survey also found that 9% of female students had mothers with at least one university degree, in contrast to about 2% for the 45 - 64 female population counted three years earlier in the 1971 Census.(16)

(16) For technical reasons it was not possible to narrow the relevant age range from 45 - 64 to 40 - 55, which might correspond more closely to the age of mothers of full-time undergraduate students. This will be attempted in a revised version.

Table 19

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduates Compared with the 45 to 64 Male Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Level of Study	Father's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduates (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1968-69) Male	Female	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Male Population (Labour Force Survey, January, 1969)	Father's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduates (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1974-75) Male	Female	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Male Population (Labour Force Survey, April 1975)	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Male Population (Census 1971)
Elementary	21.8	15.3	46.7	19.8	17.0	37.4	44.2
Some Secondary	23.5	24.6	27.0	24.3	29.5	25.3	N/A
Completed Secondary	14.3	13.1	15.3	15.3	14.9	13.5	N/A
Sub-Total Secondary	37.8	37.8	42.4	39.6	39.6	38.8	29.6
Total Elementary and Secondary	59.6	53.0	89.0	59.3	56.3	76.2	73.7
Other Education or Training	17.0	19.4	N/A	10.0	10.9	10.3	9.4
Post-Secondary Non-University	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.6	1.7	2.4	6.7
Some University	7.0	8.0	4.2	7.3	7.7	3.6	4.4
University Degree(s)	16.4	19.5	6.8	21.7	23.3	7.6	5.7
Sub-Total University	23.4	27.5	11.0	29.0	31.0	11.1	10.1
Total Post-Secondary (Trade or Vocational)	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.6	32.7	13.5	16.8
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	133,259	74,967	1,870,000	89,606	75,723	2,113,003	1,978,850

Table 20

Educatinal Attainment of Mothers of Full-time Undergraduates Compared with the Educational Level of the 45 to 64 Female Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Level of Study	Mother's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduates (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1968-69) Male	Mother's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduates (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1968-69) Female	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Female Population (Labour Force Survey, January, 1969)	Mother's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduate (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1974-75) Male	Mother's Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduate (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1974-75) Female	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Female Population (Labour Force Survey, April 1975)	Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Female Population (Census 1971)
Elementary	20.3	14.6	42.6	17.9	14.6	35.5	42.6
Some Secondary	28.1	26.4	28.9	24.7	23.9	28.0	N/A
Completed Secondary	22.9	19.6	20.1	22.8	19.4	19.2	N/A
Sub-Total Secondary	51.0	45.9	49.0	47.5	43.3	47.1	37.0
Total Elementary and Secondary	71.4	60.6	91.6	65.4	57.9	82.7	79.6
Other Education and Training	15.5	22.6	N/A	10.0	13.8	8.9	4.9
Post-Secondary Non-University	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.2	14.3	3.2	9.4
Some University	6.8	9.1	5.1	4.2	5.0	2.6	3.9
University Degree(s)	6.3	7.7	3.3	7.2	9.0	2.5	2.2
Sub-Total University	13.1	16.8	8.4	11.4	14.0	5.2	6.1
Total Post-Secondary (Trade or Vocational)	N/A	N/A	N/A	24.6	28.3	8.4	13.5
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	133,929	75,700	1,907,000	89,755	77,167	2,144,535	2,023,955

Table 21 summarizes the information in the previous three tables and compares the educational attainment of fathers and mothers in the two post-secondary surveys with the 45 - 64 population. This demonstrates that educational attainment, particularly at the university level, was substantially higher among fathers than mothers in all years. These differences between the sexes' educational attainment were also characteristics of the general population.

Table 22 shows a very gradual rise in the educational attainment of the 45 - 64 age group between the 1961 and 1971 Censuses. For example, the proportion with a university degree increased from 3.1% to 3.9%. The relatively low level of educational attainment of this age group, who had little opportunity to participate in the expansion of post-secondary education during the sixties, is particularly evident.

The comparison of students' parents with the general population seems to indicate that hopes of achieving greater equality in educational opportunities have not been realized; social barriers seem to have been more formidable than originally anticipated.

Of greater concern are signs that access to university has contracted despite substantial financial support programs developed for full-time students. Without these assistance programs, access to university might have been even more restricted.

Construction of additional post-secondary facilities (e.g., community colleges) during the sixties seems to have achieved its social objective: i.e., to provide educational opportunities of a vocational nature to a sizeable group of students whose socio-economic background made it more difficult to attend university.

Table 21

Educational Attainment of Parents of Full-time Undergraduates Compared with the Educational Level of the 45 to 64 Population, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Level of Study	Parents' Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduates (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1968-69)		Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Population (Labour Force Survey, January, 1969)		Parents' Educational Attainment of Full-Time Undergraduates (Post-Secondary Student Survey, 1974-75)		Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Population (Labour Force Survey, April 1975)		Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Population (Census 1971)	
	Father	Mother	Male	Female	Father	Mother	Male	Female	Male	Female
Elementary	19.4	18.3	46.7	42.6	18.5	16.4	37.4	35.5	44.2	42.6
Some Secondary	23.9	27.5	27.0	28.9	24.4	24.4	25.3	28.0	N/A	N/A
Completed Secondary	13.9	21.7	15.3	20.1	15.1	21.2	13.5	19.2	N/A	N/A
Sub-Total Secondary	37.8	49.2	42.4	49.0	39.4	45.6	38.8	47.1	29.6	37.0
Total Elementary and Secondary	57.2	67.5	89.0	91.6	57.9	61.9	76.2	82.7	73.7	79.6
Other Education or Training	17.9	18.1	N/A	N/A	10.4	11.8	10.3	8.9	9.4	4.9
Post-Secondary Non-University	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.7	13.7	2.4	3.2	6.7	9.4
Some University	7.4	7.6	4.2	5.1	7.5	4.6	3.6	2.6	4.4	3.9
University Degree(s)	17.5	6.8	6.8	3.3	22.5	8.0	7.6	2.5	5.7	2.2
Sub-Total University	24.9	14.4	11.0	8.4	30.0	12.6	11.1	5.2	10.1	6.1
Total Post-Secondary (Trade or Vocational)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.7	26.3	13.5	8.4	16.8	15.5
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	208,226	209,629	1,870,000	1,907,000	165,329	166,922	2,113,003	2,144,535	1,978,850	2,023,950

Table 22

Comparison of Educational Attainment of the 45 to 64 Age Group: 1961 and 1971 Census

Level of Study	1961			1971		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	57.6	51.7	54.7	48.4	44.3	46.3
Secondary	35.2	43.6	39.3	41.4	49.6	45.5
Sub-total Elementary and Secondary	92.7	95.3	94.0	89.8	93.9	91.8
Some University	3.0	2.8	2.9	4.4	3.9	4.2
University Degree(s)	4.3	1.9	3.1	5.2	2.2	3.9
Sub-total University	7.3	4.7	6.0	9.6	6.1	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	1,606,302	1,548,148	3,154,450	1,978,860	2,023,955	4,002,805

Chapter V

Concluding Observations

A myriad of forces influence individuals' educational choice. Some of them were mentioned in the introduction; others can only be alluded to: family size,[17] peer group pressures, the media, economic considerations, and changing attitudes toward higher education.

However, earlier studies have shown family socio-economic status to be significant in explaining differences in educational opportunities available to children.[18]

And parents' educational attainment is a major component of socio-economic status. A recent report concluded that "education of both parents" was "of special importance"[19] in the academic future of their children.

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(17) Of particular interest is the influence of siblings on each other. Robert Rabinovitch stated: "the educational level of brothers and sisters is indeed important in helping to establish the necessary social milieu for pursuing higher education. (Rabinovitch, op. cit. p. 48).

(18) W.G. Fleming, "Educational Opportunity - the Pursuit of Equality". Prentice Hall, Toronto, 1974. Raymond Breton, "Social and Academic Factors in the Career Decisions of Canadian Youth", Ottawa, Information Canada, 1972. Marion R. Porter, John Porter and Bernard R. Blishen, "Does Money Matter? Prospects for Higher Education". Toronto, Institute for Behavioural Research, York University, 1973.

(19) A Leslie Robb and Byron G. Spencer, "Education, Enrolment and Attainment", in Opportunity for Choice, A Goal for Women in Canada, Statistics Canada and C.C. Howe Research Institute, Ottawa, 1976, p. 53. With regard to the influence of mothers on the education of their daughters, this report comes to a different conclusion than the results of my study suggest. Contrary to the information presented (next page footnote cont'd)

A tentative conclusion of this report is that although greater access to higher education has not occurred in universities, it seems to have taken place in the community college sector.

Under its cost-sharing program, the federal government has contributed more than ten billion dollars to higher education since 1967 (or 50% of the operating expenditures). It appears that between 1968-69 and 1974-75, this program benefited the middle and upper classes of Canadian society as much or more than those from the lower-middle and working classes. This conclusion is based on the use of parents' educational attainment as an indicator of social class. However, additional analyses with more variables are required to substantiate this conclusion.

Yet is is likely that federal and provincial financial aid schemes have sustained the participation of low-income students during a period of rising costs of higher education and declining job opportunities for university-trained manpower.

The latter phenomenon requires closer investigation. Decreasing job openings in highly qualified occupations could retard the social mobility

(19) (cont'd) in this Robb and Spencer "found no evidence to support the hypothesis that the mother's education, more than the father's, is an important influence on the education of the daughter" p. 89. Since my report uses data, which were not then available to the two authors, their conclusions should be re-evaluated particularly "no difference in the impact that the education of either parent has on the education of either sons or daughters." p. 86.

of disadvantaged groups. This also affects the career choices of upper and middle class children. But the slow expansion of professional and technical jobs is merely one aspect of a growing problem - youth unemployment.

As Table 23 shows, since the late sixties the unemployment rate of the 14 - 24 age group has been twice as high as that of people 25 and over. The annual average for 1977 was 14.5% compared with 5.8% for the older group. At present, about 475,000 14 - 24-year-olds are looking for work.(20)

The socio-economic background, as measured by parents' educational attainment, of these unemployed is unknown, but is likely possible that many come from disadvantaged groups of Canadian society and have limited marketable skills.

This possibility is supported by relating the youth unemployment rate to their educational attainment. Between 1975 and 1977 in April of each year, about 25% of those with only elementary education were unemployed, compared with fewer than 6% holding a university degree (Table 24). These figures confirm the importance of education as a screening mechanism to the labour force, and the tendency of those with higher educational attainment to displace those with less.

(20) The January 1978 Labour Force Survey reported 444,000 unemployed (16.7%) but these estimates use the 15 - 24 age group. Consequently, the number was adjusted upward.

Thus, while higher education may not guarantee a professional career, it does provide some protection against unemployment. And as long as some classes have fewer opportunities to receive higher education, they will lack such protection.

Another development is significant. In the United States, 1975-76 post-secondary enrolment increased 11.0% over the previous year. It has been suggested that this growth is partly attributable to the 1973-1975 economic recession. Conversely, in 1976-77 when the economy improved, U.S. universities experienced an absolute decline in enrolment.

Equality of educational opportunity is at a critical juncture[21].

New social and educational policies[22] are required to overcome apparent inaqualities, which, in the future, might even be accentuated.

(21) It could be argued that the least affluent students have improved their access to university education with a corresponding decline in opportunities for the middle classes.

(22) For example, excluding unskilled youths from minimum wage laws, subsidizing minimum wage payments, or providing tax incentives for business to employ youth. It appears that in the past Canada Manpower Training Programs have provided few opportunities for the young unemployed.

Table 23

Unemployment, 14 to 24 and 25 and Over Age Groups, 1967 to

Calendar Year	14 to 24		25 and Over	Total
	No.	Percent	Percent	Percent
1967	130,000	6.8	3.2	4.1
1968	163,000	8.2	3.7	4.8
1969	165,000	7.9	3.6	4.7
1970	224,000	10.4	4.4	5.9
1971	256,000	11.4	4.7	6.4
1972	263,000	11.1	4.6	6.3
1973	251,000	10.0	4.0	5.6
1974	258,000	9.6	3.8	5.4
1975	346,000	12.5	5.0	7.1
1976*	355,000	12.8	5.1	7.1
1977	414,000	14.5	5.8	8.1
1978 (January)*	444,000	16.7	7.0	4.5

* 15 to 24 age group

Source: Statistics Canada, Monthly Labour Force Survey, December 1975, December 1976, December 1977, and January 1978.

Table 28

Unemployment Rate by Age Group and Level of Education,
April, 1975 to 1977

Level of Education	15 - 24 Age Group			Three Year Average	25 and Over			Three Year Average
	1975	1976	1977		1975	1976	1977	
	(in percent)							
Grades 0 - 8	26.5	23.9	25.0	25.1	8.6	8.4	10.0	9.0
High School (no post-secondary)	13.1	14.0	16.0	14.4	5.1	5.7	7.0	5.9
Some Post-Secondary	7.9	8.3	12.6	9.6	5.0	4.5	5.3	4.9
Post-secondary Certificate or diploma	6.2	6.8	7.9	7.0	3.7	5.1	4.2	4.3
University Degree	4.8	4.7	7.3	5.6	2.0	2.5	2.4	2.3
All Levels	12.3	12.8	15.1	13.4	5.4	5.8	6.7	6.0

Source: Statistics Canada Special Labour Force Division, Special Tabulations.

APPENDIX A

Education of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduate Students by Province and Field of Study

National data on parental educational attainment provide some measure of overall access to post-secondary education and changes in recent years, but variations by province and by field of study are significant.

Because full-time undergraduates constitute the majority of full-time university students, the following discussion focusses on this group. Their father's education is used as an indicator of social class.

In 1968-69, undergraduates in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland were almost three times as likely as their counterparts in British Columbia to have fathers with only elementary education (31% compared with 11%) (Table A-1). The fathers of about two-thirds of the full-time undergraduates in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Saskatchewan had secondary education or less, while in Ontario, Nova Scotia and British Columbia the comparable figure was 55%. Concurrently, 22% of the fathers of Ontario students had a university degree; the percentage was considerably lower in most other provinces (7% in Newfoundland, 8% in Prince Edward Island, 11% in Saskatchewan, and 17% in Quebec).

A comparison of the 1968-69 results with the 1974-75 survey data, shows that the proportion of fathers with secondary education or less declined slightly or remained stable, whereas the percentage with a university degree increased substantially.

In Ontario and British Columbia the father of every full-time undergraduate had at least one degree, compared with every tenth in Newfoundland. In Saskatchewan, the proportion of fathers with a degree grew from 11% in 1968-69 to 16% in 1974-75, and in Quebec from 17% to 21%.

These figures seem to indicate that access to post-secondary education has improved in all provinces, particularly for those whose fathers have university education. This is confirmed by a comparison with the 1971 Census. In the Atlantic provinces and the Prairies (except Alberta) more than 80% of the male 45-64 age group had secondary education or less, compared with only about two-thirds of fathers of full-time undergraduates.

This disparity is much more pronounced at the level of university degrees. In Alberta, for example, 6% of the male 45-64 population were degree-holders, compared with 17% of the undergraduates' fathers in 1968-69, and 23% of them in 1974-75. Similarly, in most other provinces, the ratio of students' fathers with degrees to the number in the relevant age group was three or four to one. In Newfoundland, 10% of the fathers of full-time undergraduates had a university degree, compared with less than 2% of the 45-64 male population.

The fathers' level of education also varies by their sons' and daughters' field of study. In 1974-75, close to two-thirds of those specializing in

Table A-1

Comparison of Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduates by Province of Residence between 1968-69 and 1974-75 and with the 1971 Census

Fathers' Educational Attainment		Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total
Elementary	1968-69	30.6	30.8	12.4	24.0	23.8	16.9	19.7	28.3	18.5	10.8	19.1
	1974-75	25.4	26.2	12.8	24.2	25.4	16.6	20.9	24.8	15.4	10.9	18.4
	1971	65.1	55.1	43.7	58.8	56.1	37.3	44.7	51.6	37.2	31.1	44.2
Some Secondary	1968-69	21.0	22.9	33.1	21.5	20.2	23.1	25.4	27.9	23.0	27.5	23.8
	1974-75	21.7	28.2	37.0	28.8	21.8	22.5	28.6	26.7	27.8	25.1	24.5
Completed Secondary	1968-69	14.8	11.4	9.9	12.8	14.5	14.6	13.9	11.2	10.6	16.0	13.9
	1974-75	17.7	9.9	14.5	14.4	12.8	16.3	15.9	15.4	12.9	16.7	15.2
Sub-total Secondary	1968-69	35.8	34.2	43.0	34.4	34.7	37.7	39.3	39.1	33.6	43.5	37.7
	1974-75	39.4	38.1	51.5	43.3	34.6	38.8	44.5	42.2	40.7	41.8	39.7
	1971	24.0	27.6	35.4	21.3	20.6	33.5	31.9	30.6	33.9	35.4	29.6
Total Elementary and Secondary	1968-69	66.4	65.0	55.4	58.4	58.5	54.6	59.0	67.4	52.2	54.4	56.8
	1974-75	64.8	64.4	64.4	67.5	60.0	55.4	65.4	66.9	56.1	52.7	58.1
	1971	89.1	82.7	79.1	79.9	76.7	70.7	76.6	82.2	71.1	66.5	73.7
Some University	1968-69	8.6	9.6	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.4	6.4	6.7	7.3	8.5	7.5
	1974-75	9.5	15.7	9.2	8.0	8.4	9.2	9.3	10.7	7.5	10.2	9.1
	1971	2.6	3.2	3.6	3.4	4.0	4.8	4.3	3.5	4.2	5.8	4.4
University Degree(s)	1968-69	7.4	8.3	16.6	14.3	16.8	21.6	17.4	10.8	16.9	18.6	18.0
	1974-75	9.9	14.2	19.0	15.2	21.0	24.8	18.0	15.8	23.4	25.4	22.4
	1971	1.8	3.3	4.6	3.7	5.7	6.4	4.5	3.5	6.1	6.3	5.7
Sub-total University	1968-69	15.9	17.9	24.0	21.4	24.3	28.9	23.8	17.5	24.1	27.1	25.4
	1974-75	19.5	29.9	28.2	23.2	29.4	34.1	27.3	26.5	30.9	35.6	31.5
	1971	4.3	6.6	8.0	7.1	9.7	11.2	8.8	7.0	10.3	12.1	10.1
Other Education and Training	1968-69	17.7	17.0	20.6	20.2	17.1	16.4	17.1	15.1	23.7	18.5	17.8
	1974-75	15.7	5.7	7.4	9.3	10.6	10.5	7.3	6.6	13.0	11.7	10.4
	1971	6.6	10.7	12.9	13.0	13.6	18.1	14.6	10.8	18.6	21.4	16.2
Total	1968-69	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1974-75	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

education had fathers with secondary education or less, compared with about 55% for other fields (Table A-2). However, the proportion of education undergraduates whose fathers held a university degree almost doubled since 1968-69; from 10% to 19%. In the physical and applied sciences the father of every fourth undergraduate had a university degree in 1974-75. The variations by field of study in the educational attainment of students' fathers appear to be slight.

Table A-3 shows the educational attainment of fathers of full- and part-time Ph.D. students in 1974-75. The proportion of doctoral students whose father held a university degree was not substantially different from that of full-time undergraduates (22% vs. 26%). Part-time Ph.D. students had a slightly lower percentage of degree-holding fathers (23%).

These tables confirm that there are substantial variations in access to university education by province, but differences by field and level of study are much less pronounced.

Table A-2

Educational Attainment of Fathers of Full-time Undergraduate Students by Field of Study, 1968-69 and 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Education	Humanities and Social Sciences	Engineering and Applied	Health Occupations and Prof.	Mathematical and Physical Sciences	Total
Elementary						
1968-69	25.6	18.1	20.8	17.7	17.6	19.1
1974-75	23.6	17.8	21.6	21.2	16.6	19.0
Some Secondary						
1968-69	26.7	24.1	19.3	25.3	23.2	23.8
1974-75	27.6	23.5	20.0	23.8	24.7	24.1
Completed Secondary						
1968-69	12.4	13.7	12.9	15.2	15.2	13.9
1974-75	13.1	15.7	14.4	15.3	14.7	15.0
Sub-total Secondary						
1968-69	39.2	37.8	32.2	40.4	38.4	37.6
1974-75	40.7	39.2	34.3	39.1	39.4	39.0
Total Elem. & Sec.						
1968-69	64.7	55.9	53.0	58.2	56.0	56.7
1974-75	64.3	57.0	55.9	60.3	56.0	58.1
Some University						
1968-69	5.9	8.2	7.8	5.2	6.8	7.4
1974-75	7.0	10.2	8.0	7.2	8.8	9.0
University Degree(s)						
1968-69	10.0	19.0	18.2	19.9	19.4	18.1
1974-75	18.8	21.7	25.2	21.8	24.8	22.2
Sub-total University						
1968-69	15.9	27.2	26.0	25.1	26.2	25.5
1974-75	25.7	31.9	33.2	28.9	33.6	31.2
Other Education						
1968-69	19.3	16.9	21.0	16.7	17.8	17.7
1974-75	10.0	11.1	10.8	10.8	10.4	10.7
Total						
1968-69	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1974-75	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A-3

Educational Attainment of Fathers
of Full and Part-time Ph.D. Students 1974-75

Fathers' Educational Attainment	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Elementary	21.5	27.2	22.8
Some Secondary	19.7	22.7	20.4
Completed Secondary	15.1	13.1	14.7
Sub-total Secondary	34.9	35.8	35.1
Total Elemenary and Secondary	56.4	63.0	57.8
Some University	8.9	8.1	8.8
University Degree(s)	26.0	23.3	25.4
Total University	35.0	31.4	34.2
Other Education and Training	8.6	5.6	7.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number Reported	4,438	1,227	5,665

APPENDIX B

Methods of Procedures of Data Collection

The quantitative information for this report was obtained from the following sources:

1) The 1968-69 Post-Secondary Student Survey
2) The 1974-75 Post-Secondary Student Survey
3) The educational supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (January 1969)
4) The monthly Labour Force Survey (April 1975)
5) The 1971 Census
6) The 1961 Census
7) Enrolment, participation and expenditure data from Statistics Canada
8) Canada Student Loans Plan information from the Department of Finance
9) Unemployment data from the regular Labour Force Survey

The most difficult task was to standardize information on educational attainment, since the classification used in the five major surveys varied. Particularly troublesome was the category "other education and training", which includes mostly vocational or trades beyond either elementary or high school. Equating the post-secondary non-university category presented similar difficulties.

The list of surveys indicates how categories were combined. In some instances, particularly in the tables containing comparisons with Labour Force data, a different classification system was employed to reconcile the information.

A number of additional caveats are necessary:

a) Both Post-secondary Student Surveys were conducted in the Spring (1969 and 1975).

b) The 1968-69 PSSS includes some part-time students who could not be eliminated from the tabulations.

c) For both surveys, the "not reported" category and the 1974-75 (I do not know) were excluded.

d) The two PSSS surveys exclude all landed immigrants and foreign students.

e) The data from the two Labour Force Surveys and the 1971 Census are not necessarily comparable because of slightly different definitions and methodologies.

f) For each table, the educational attainment has been expressed in percentage terms and the number reported is given as total in each instance.

1969 (January) Labour Force Survey

Level of Study
(Educational Attainment
of the 45 to 64 Age Group)

1) Elementary*

2) Some High School

3) Completed High School

4) Some University**

5) Completed University**

* includes "No Schooling", and "some" and completed elementary school

** University refers to "college or university"

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey Division, Special Tabulations.

1975 (April) Labour Force Survey

Level of Education
of 45 to 64 Age Group

1) Elementary a) under grade 5

2) b) 5 to 8

3) Some High School

4) Completed High School

5) Some University

6) Diploma or Certificate

7) University Degree

8) All other Education or Training
   a) some
   b) completed

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Division, Special Tabulations.

1968-69 Post-Secondary Student Survey

Parental Level of Study
(Highest attainment)

1) Other

2) Never in School
(self-taught)

3) Some Elementary School

4) Trade Training beyond
elementary school

5) Some High School Standing

6) High School graduation

7) Trade or Vocational
Training beyond High School

8) Some University Credit

9) One University degree

10) Two or more University degrees

1974-75 Post-Secondary Student Survey

Parental Level of Study
(Highest level of Education
Attained)

1) No formal schooling (self-taught)

2) Elementary School

3) Some High School

4) Completed High School

5) Business, technical or trades
training (e.g., secretarial or
business school, barbering school,
trade school)

6) Nursing school, teachers college,
junior college, classical college,
or equivalent

7) Some university - no degree completed

8) Bachelors degree

9) Degree in Law, Dentistry, Medicine
or equivalent, Veterinary Medicine

10) Masters or Doctoral Degree

11) I do not know

Source: Statistics Canada, Education Division, Special Tabulations.

1971 Census: 45 to 64 Age Group of Level of Schooling

Level of Schooling

1) Elementary, less than grade 9
   a) without other training
   b) vocational training

2) Secondary, grade 9 to 13
   a) without other training
   b) vocational training

3) Post-Secondary Non-University

4) Vocational and Post-Secondary Non-University

5) Some University and "University and other training" (without a degree)

6) University Degree(s)

Source: Statistics Canada (92-743), Population Not in School

1961 Census: 45 to 64 Age Group of Highest Grade Attended

Level of Education

1) No Schooling

2) Elementary
   a) less than 5
   b) More than 5

3) Secondary
   a) 1 to 2
   b) 3
   c) 4 to 5

4) Some University

5) University Degree

Source: Statistics Canada